Twenty-eig [redacted]

Pages

Lovingly

Bound with Twine

AaBbCcDdEeFfGgHhIiJjKk
Elemenopee
QqRrSsTtUuVv
WwXxYyandZz

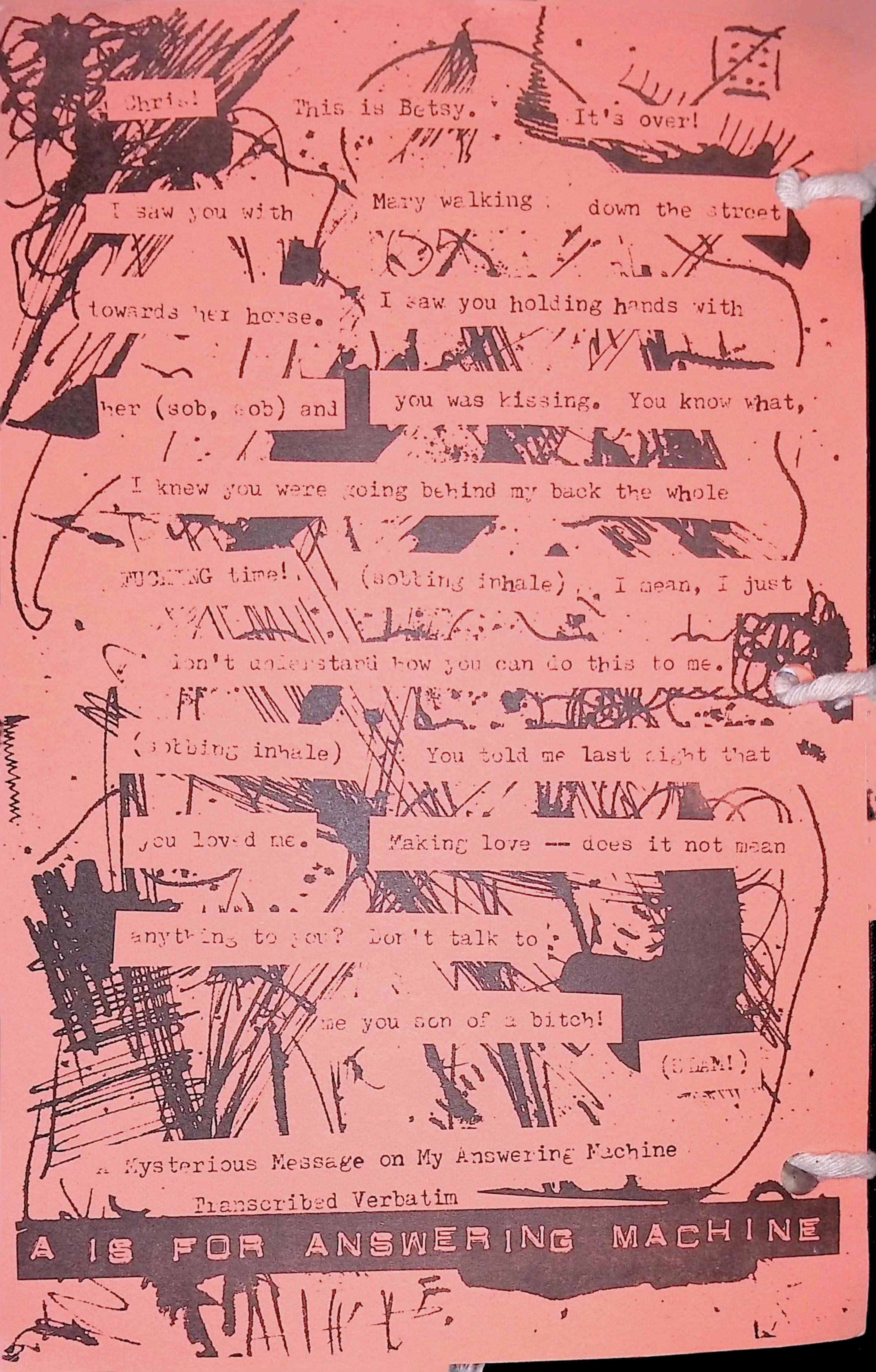
THE

ALPHABET

ISSUE

[redacted]

NUMBER TWELVE 12



Chris! This is Betsy. It's over!

I saw you with Mary walking down the street towards her house. I saw you holding hands with her (sob, sob) and you was kissing. You know what, I knew you were going behind my back the whole FUCKING time! (sobbing inhale) I mean, I just don't understand how you can do this to me. (sobbing inhale) You told me last night that you loved me. Making love -- does it not mean anything to you? Don't talk to me you son of a bitch!

(SLAM!)

A Mysterious Message on My Answering Machine
Transcribed Verbatim

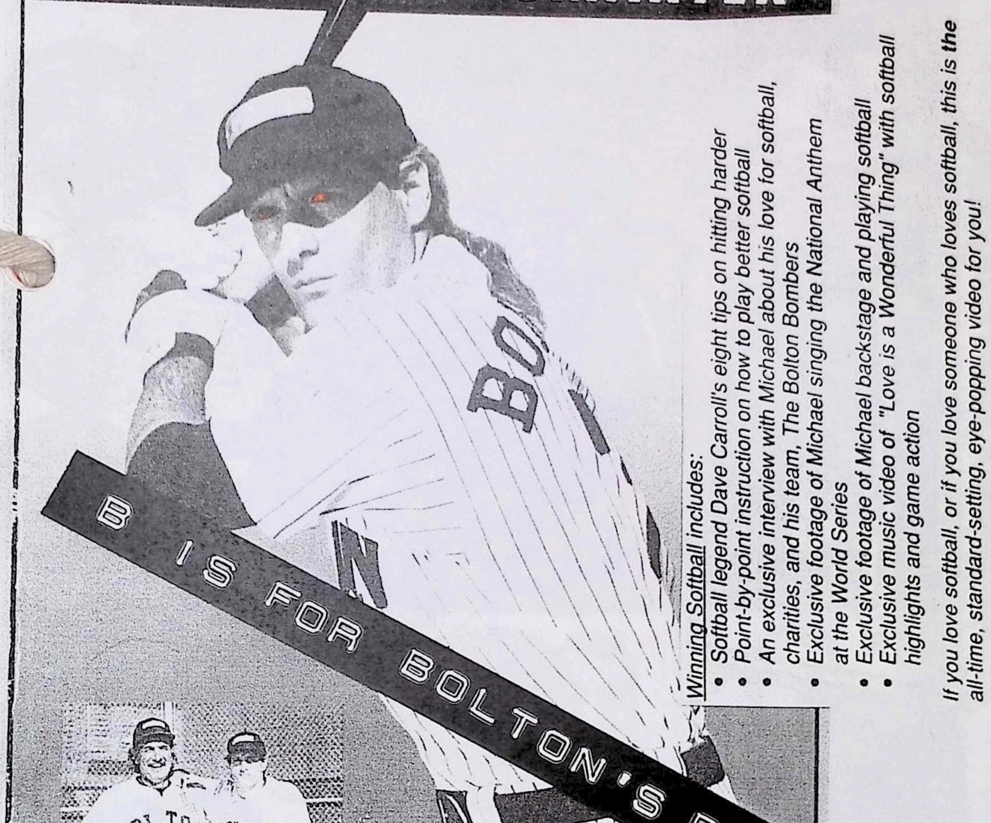
A IS FOR ANSWERING MACHINE

My team, The Bolton Bombers, tours the country playing charity softball games (we're 67-3 in our last 70). Through these games, I had the pleasure of meeting Dave Carroll, a "real-life softball legend and guru." Dave Carroll introduced the Bombers and me to his secret of Winning Softball: Hit Harder, Play Smarter. His tips and insights helped me and the entire team raise the level of our game, especially our hitting. Dave and I are convinced that men, women, and children — **EVERYONE WILL HIT THE BALL HARDER AND FARTHER THAN EVER BEFORE!** I know that Dave's tips will give you the same amazing results as I have had. **You will hit harder, play smarter, and have more fun playing softball.**

Good luck and let's play ball!
Michael Bolton

L BOLTON'S WINNING SOFTBALL

HIT HARDER, PLAY SMARTER


B IS FOR BOLTON'S BOMBERS
BOLTON
BOLTON

With Softball Legend Dave Carroll's Game-Tested Techniques

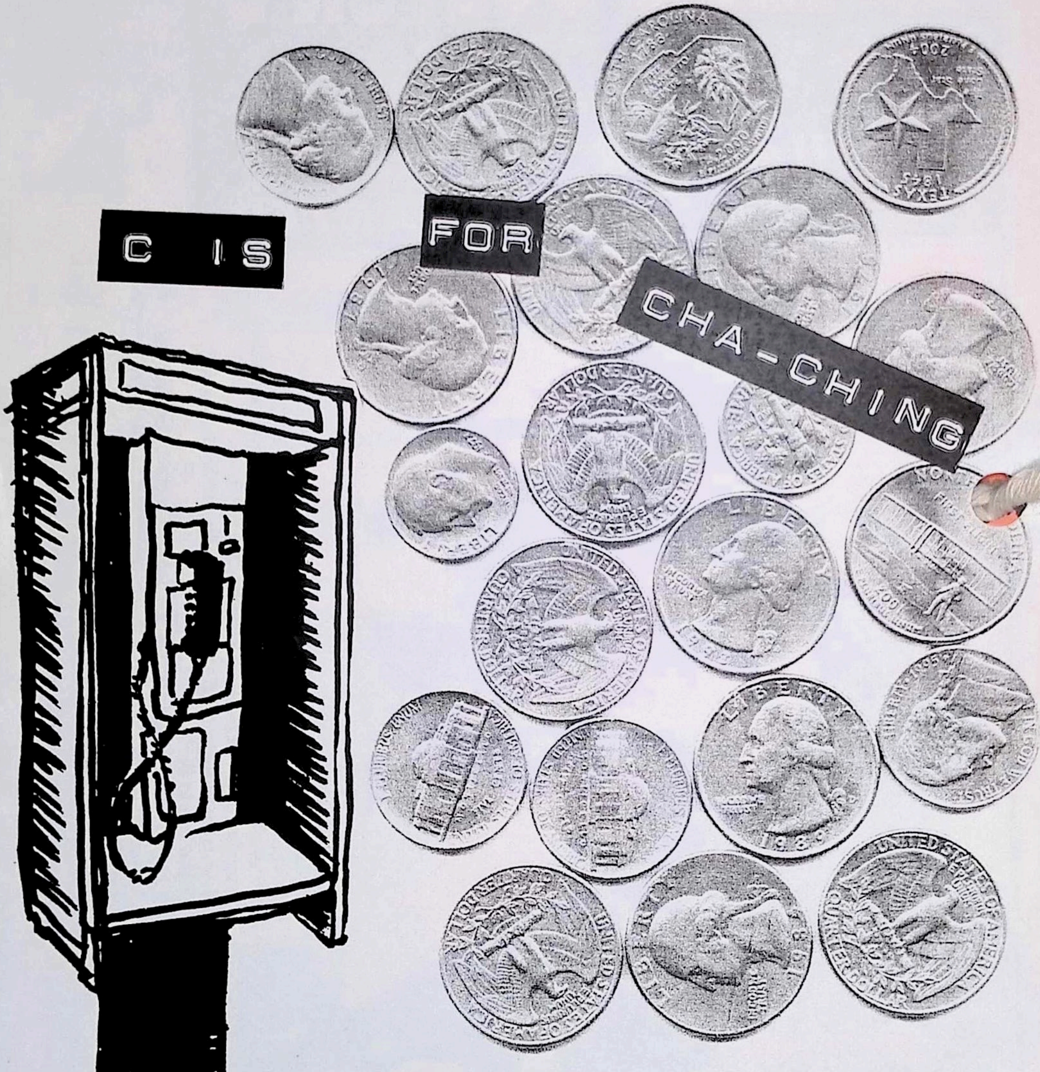
Winning Softball includes:

- Softball legend Dave Carroll's eight tips on hitting harder
- Point-by-point instruction on how to play better softball
- An exclusive interview with Michael about his love for softball, charities, and his team, The Bolton Bombers
- Exclusive footage of Michael singing the National Anthem at the World Series
- Exclusive footage of Michael backstage and playing softball
- Exclusive music video of "Love is a Wonderful Thing" with softball highlights and game action

*If you love softball, or if you love someone who loves softball, this is **the** all-time, standard-setting, eye-popping video for you!*

We were gonna meet Lisa's mom and brother at Peking Gourmet, a kickass Chinese restaurant. When they seat you they ask if you want a "regular" menu or a "vegetarian" menu, the implication being that vegetarians are "irregular" freaks. We had been waiting awhile and decided to call them to see if they were on their way. I found a payphone and began to dial when they pulled into the parking lot. So I hung up and walked away from the phone, but after taking a couple steps, I heard the *Cha-Ching* of coins like the payout at a slot machine. I turned and looked at the phone. A guy who happened to be walking by at the same time turned and looked at the phone. We both look at each other then back at the phone then back at each other. He's standing a little closer to the phone but I make the first move and claim the prize.

C IS FOR CHA-CHING



Inside the phone's change return was a payout of $4.15. I didn't ask for the money but now it's in my possession even though it's definitely not mine. It belongs to whomever owns that payphone. One of the five precepts a lay Buddhist, such as myself, takes is to refrain from taking things not given. Damn it.

D IS FOR DANCIN' SHOUTIN' JAMES BROWN

Lisa and I used to enjoy acquiring lots of stuff. I would often pull treasures destined for landfills out of dumpsters. We would routinely visit thrift stores to browse the bric-a-brac and buy silly things just because they were cheap. Over the past few years we've moved a couple times and had to haul around all that crap. Now, we find ourselves trying to thin out our possessions to those things which we actually use and enjoy. My folks sent us a package the other day. In the package was a bunch of stuff. I want to be grateful for the gifts but one thing in the box was a "*Dancin' Shoutin' James Brown*". We pushed the button a couple of times and watched James sing "I Got You (I Feel Good)" and it was slightly amusing for a day, possibly two, but after that we're stuck with a 12'' tall James Brown doll that we wanted to get rid of. We didn't even bother taking him out of the box. The novelty of novelties wears off so quickly.

Thanks to Synchro-Motion®, James Brown, "The Godfather of Soul," is back, in this animated, singing, dancing likeness! He's groovin' his hips, swingin' his arms, turning his head from side to side, and moving his mouth to the words of his trademark song, "I Got You (I Feel Good)." Keep him as a collectible or feel good and get down with James Brown!

James Brown

Hank Williams, Jr.

Dean Martin

John Belushi

Collect all 4

No Thank You.

E IS FOR EUREKA

So King Heiron II of Syracuse (in Sicily) wanted to know how to figure out if the new crown he got was pure gold. He suspected it was mixed with another metal and asked the absent-minded genius Archimedes how he could know for certain. Archimedes couldn't figure out a way to know for sure without melting the crown until one day as he lowered himself into a full bath, causing the water to overflow. The answer came to him in a flash and he jumped out of the tub and ran naked through the town to the king to tell him how he could solve the problem. As he ran he shouted, "Eureka! Eureka!" or, translated from Greek, "I've found it!"

You see, in order to measure the density of an irregularly shaped object, such as a crown, one can drop the crown and a lump of pure gold (of equal weight) into water and if each displaces the same amount of water (by weight or volume) then they are of the same density and thus made of the same metal since no other metal has the same density as gold. Turns out that the jeweler did try to swindle the king.

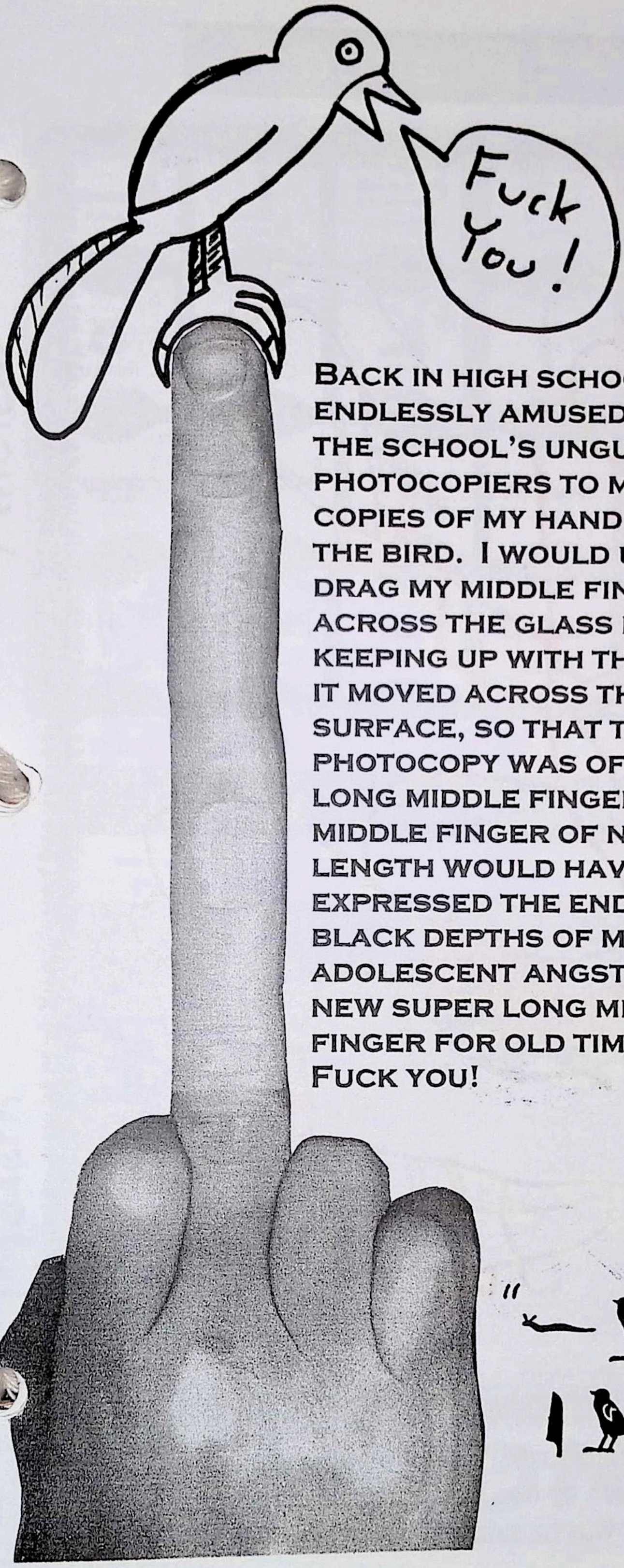
AND ENURESIS

Center FOR Enuresis Control

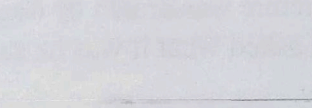
STOP BED WETTING

For more information on this important topic send 2 stamps to P.O. Box 106 Danville, OH 43014 to received the booklet What G☺D Has Revealed to Man.

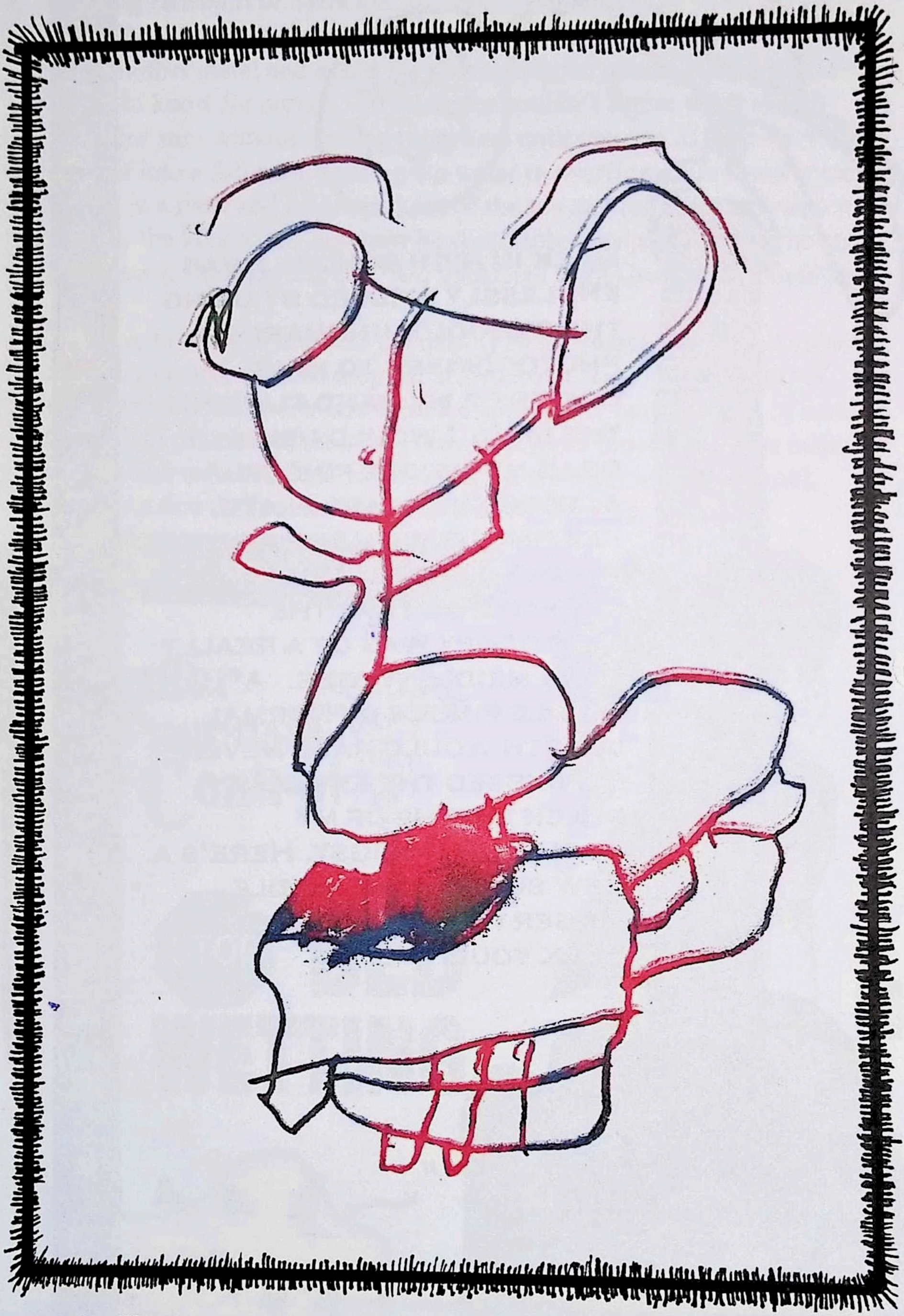
F IS FOR FUCK YOU AND FLIPPIN' THE BIRD



BACK IN HIGH SCHOOL I WAS ENDLESSLY AMUSED BY USING THE SCHOOL'S UNGUARDED PHOTOCOPIERS TO MAKE COPIES OF MY HAND FLIPPIN' THE BIRD. I WOULD USUALLY DRAG MY MIDDLE FINGER ACROSS THE GLASS PLATE, KEEPING UP WITH THE LIGHT AS IT MOVED ACROSS THE SURFACE, SO THAT THE PHOTOCOPY WAS OF A REALLY LONG MIDDLE FINGER. A MIDDLE FINGER OF NORMAL LENGTH WOULD HAVE NEVER EXPRESSED THE ENDLESS BLACK DEPTHS OF MY ADOLESCENT ANGST. HERE'S A NEW SUPER LONG MIDDLE FINGER FOR OLD TIMES SAKE. FUCK YOU!

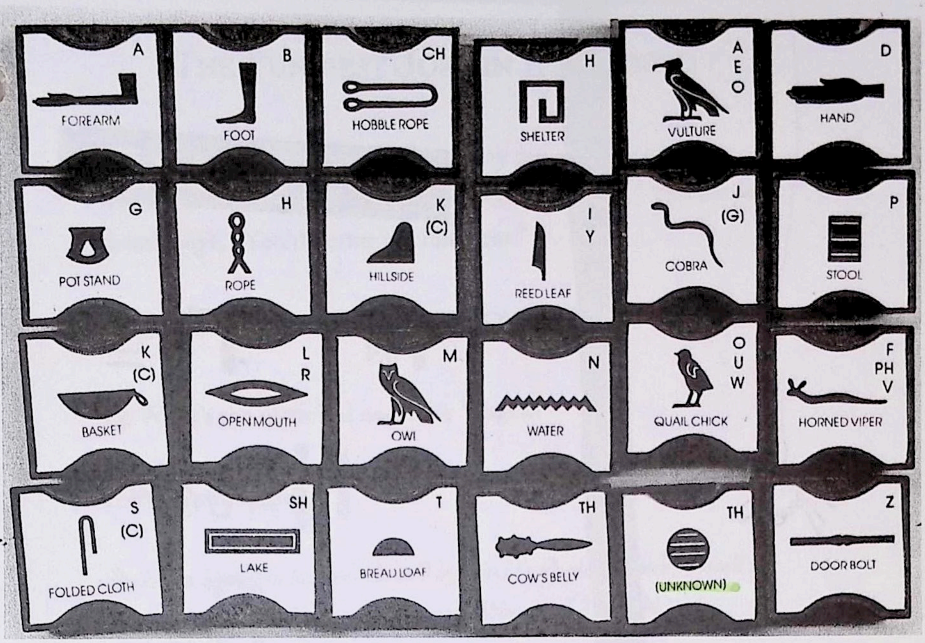


G IS FOR GOCCO



A silkscreen print, made using a Gocco silkscreening contraption. The picture was drawn by one Herbert Charlie Meyer, age 3 ½. When asked what it was he said, "A Mouse on Top of a Table".

Ancient


A
FOREARM
B
FOOT
CH
HOBBLE ROPE
H
SHELTER
A
E
O
VULTURE
D
HAND
G
POT STAND
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ROPE
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(C)
HILLSIDE
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Y
REED LEAF
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OPEN MOUTH
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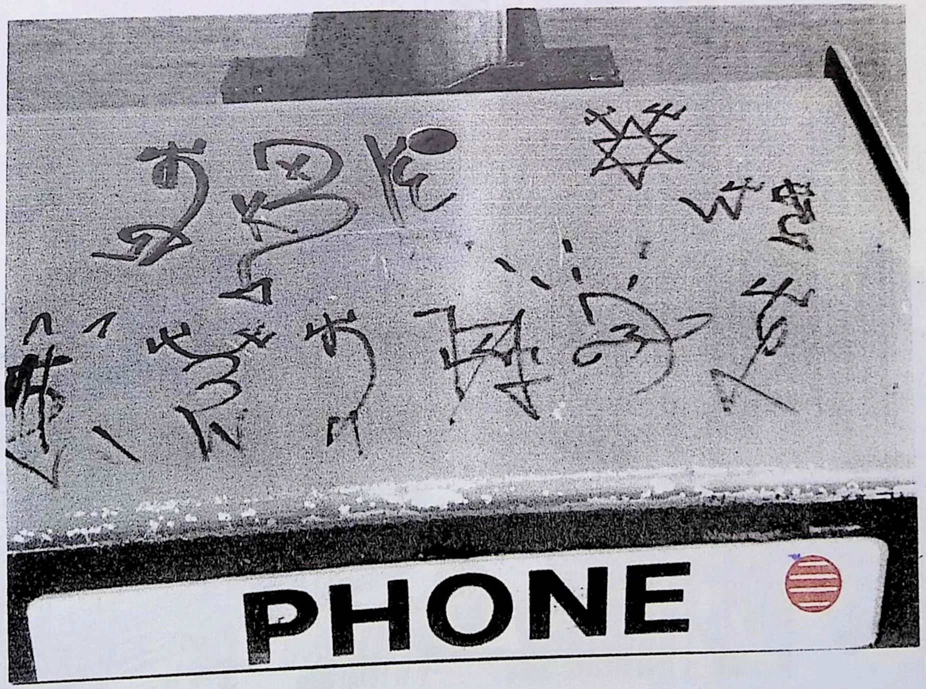
W
QUAIL CHICK
F
PH
V
HORNED VIPER
S
(C)
FOLDED CLOTH
SH
LAKE
T
BREAD LOAF
TH
COW'S BELLY
TH
(UNKNOWN)
Z
DOOR BOLT

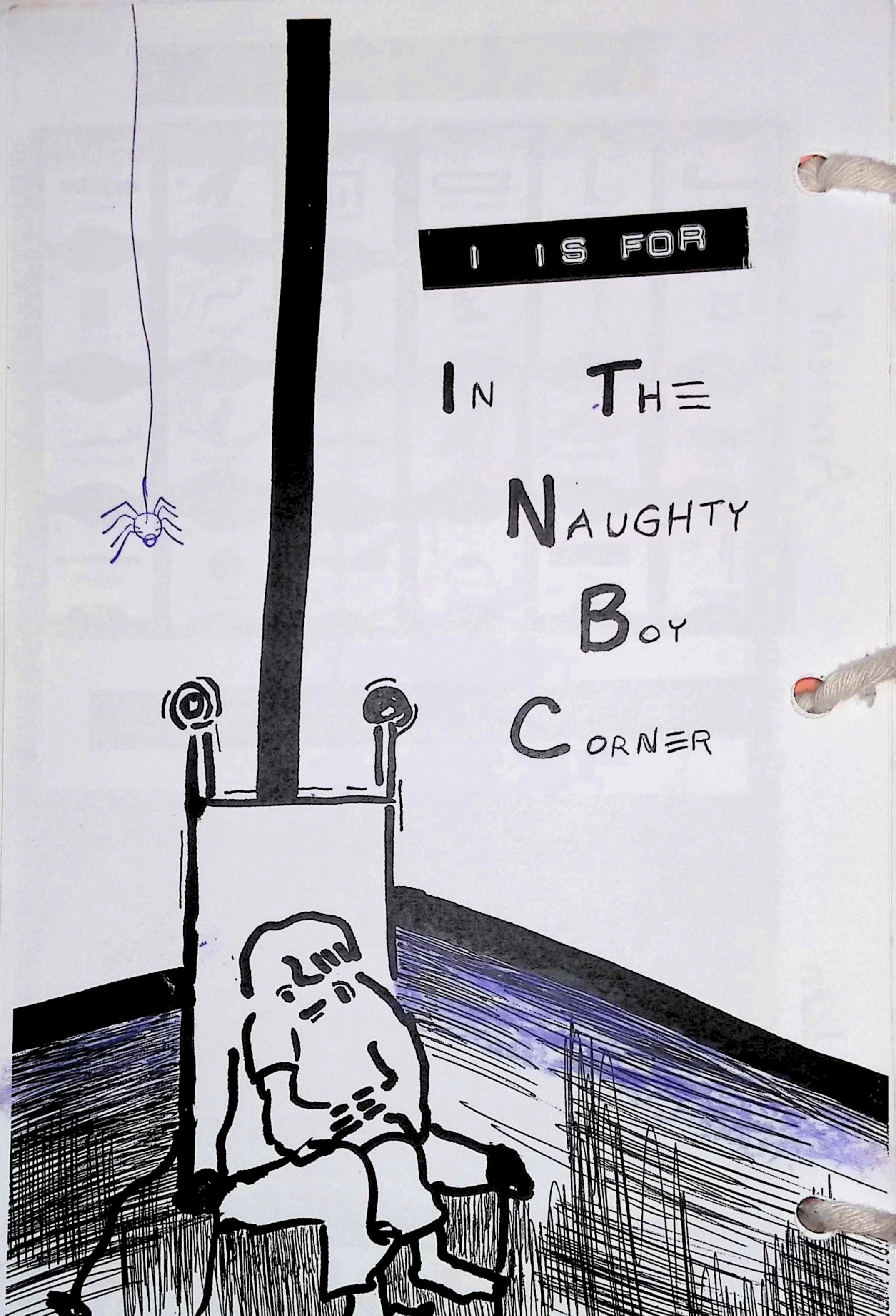
H IS FOR HIEROGLYPHICS

Modern



I IS FOR

IN THE NAUGHTY BOY CORNER



J IS FOR JOKES

THE FUNNIEST JOKE IN THE WORLD

Two drunks walk down an alley. They see a dog licking its nuts. The first drunk says, "I wish *I* could do that." The second drunk says, "You'd better pet him first."

THE SECOND-FUNNIEST JOKE IN THE WORLD

Q: What's the chemical name for Viagra?

A: Micoxafloppin.

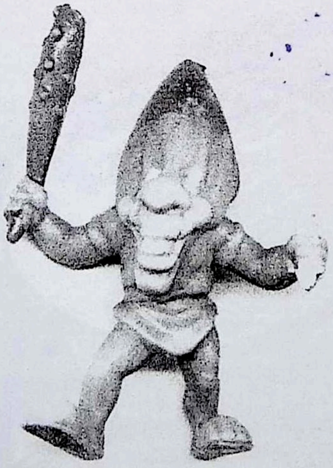
Ba ha ha ha ha ha heeeeee! As told by David's English friend Russell at Sue-min's Chinese Gourmet, Wooster, Ohio, April 23, 2004.

The above jokes provided courtesy of Kurt Knebusch

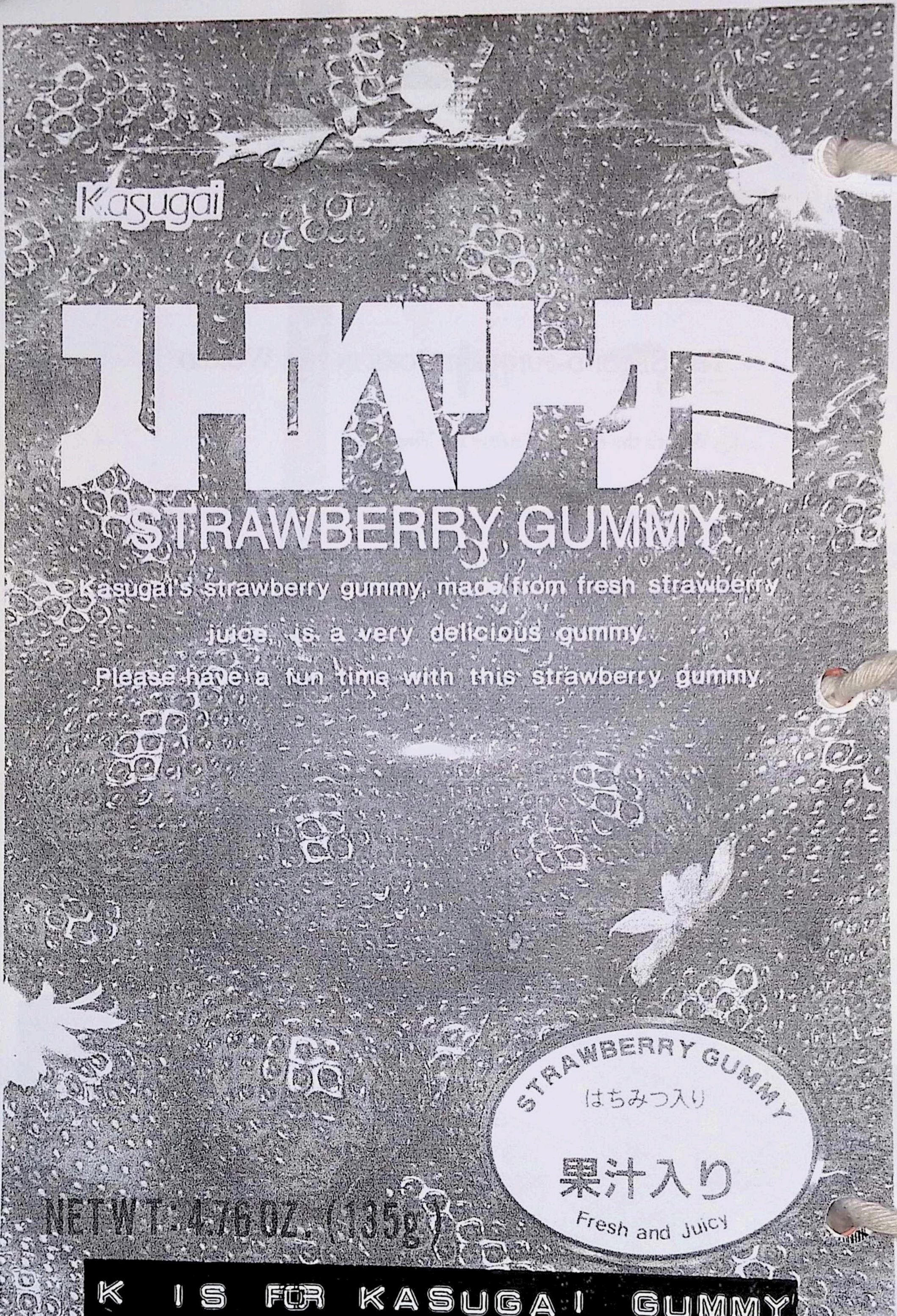
Here's a couple more:

There are two sausages frying in a pan. The first sausage says, "It sure is hot in here!" The second sausage says, "Holy shit! A talking sausage!"

A horse walks into a bar. The bartender asks, "Why such a long face?"



J is also for Jipp. This little fellow is a Jipp. Now that I think about it, he might be a Mogg. No, I think he's a Jipp. Fuck. It's hard to be certain but I'm gonna go out on a limb and just say he's a Jipp.



Kasugai

ストロベリーグミ

STRAWBERRY GUMMY

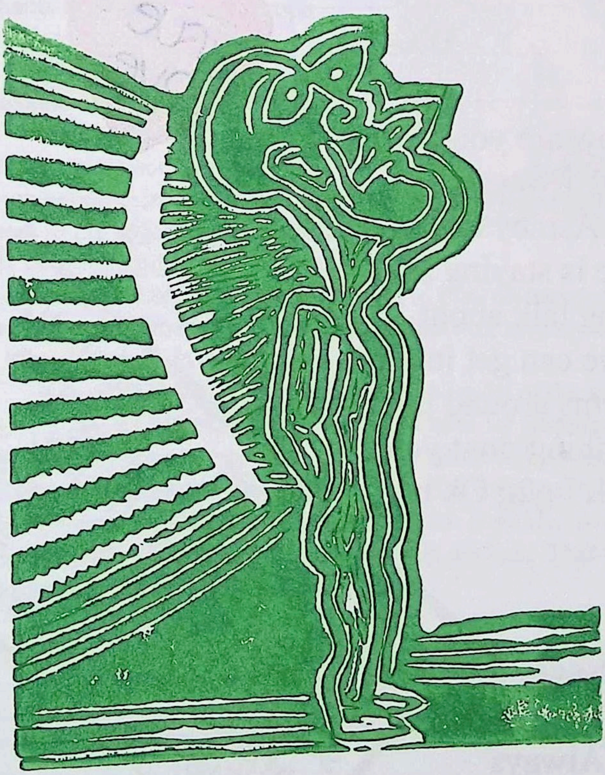
Kasugai's strawberry gummy, made from fresh strawberry juice, is a very delicious gummy. Please have a fun time with this strawberry gummy.

STRAWBERRY GUMMY
はちみつ入り
果汁入り
Fresh and Juicy

NET WT: 4.76 OZ. (135g)

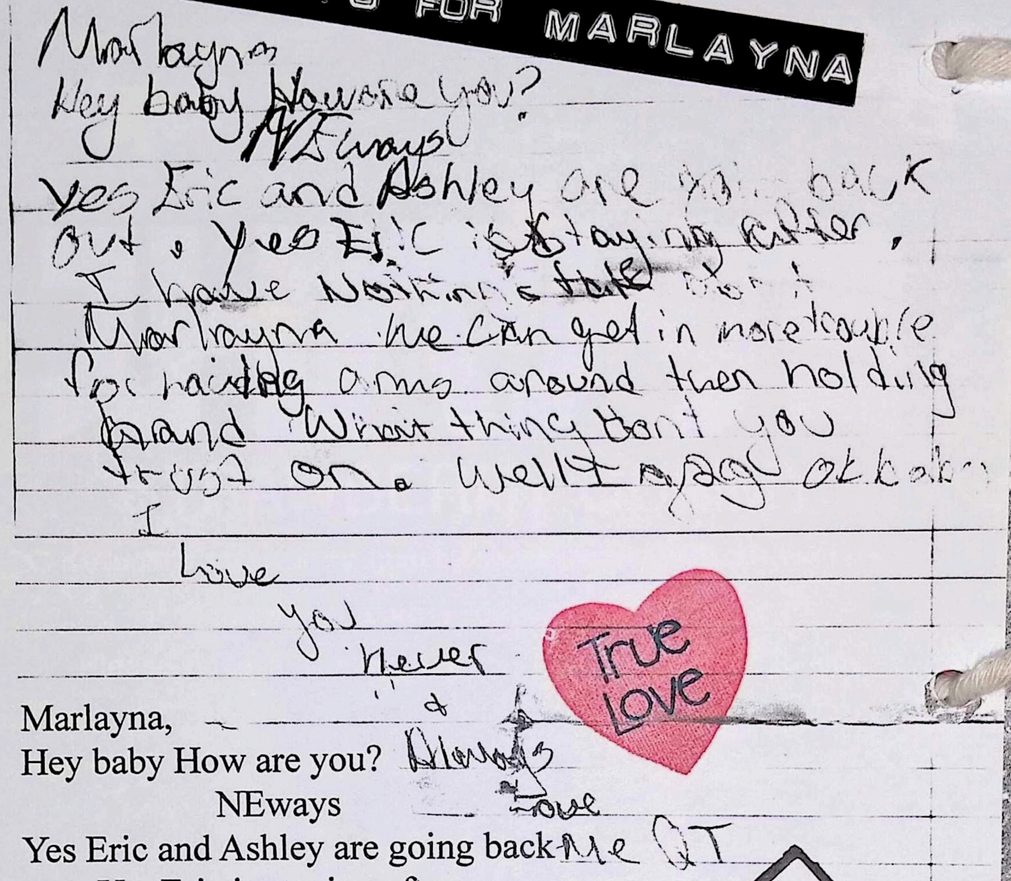
K IS FOR KASUGAI GUMMY

L IS FOR LINOLEUM PRINT



Stargazer

M IS FOR MARLAYNA



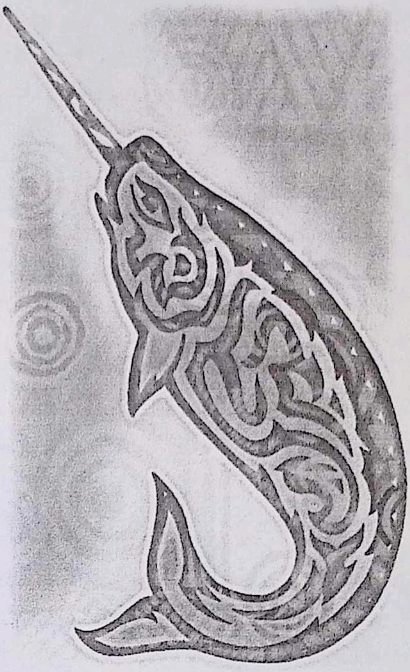
Marlayna
Hey baby How are you?
NEways
Yes Eric and Ashley are goin back
out. Yes Eric is staying after.
I have Nothing talk about
Marlayna we can get in more trouble
for having arms around then holding
hand What thing dont you
trust on. Well I g2g Ok baby
I
Love
you
Never
&
Always
Love
Me QT

Marlayna,
Hey baby How are you?
NEways
Yes Eric and Ashley are going back
out. Yes Eric is staying after.
I have nothing talk about
Marylayna we can get in more trouble
for having arms around then holding
hand What thing dont you
trust on. Well I g2g Ok baby
I
Love
You
Never
&
Always
Love
Me QT

I found this compellingly adolescent note in a pile of snow near my house. The soggy, scribbled note is barely legible so I'm providing a transcription.

N IS FOR NARWHAL

It's just way too cool that these things even exist. Narwhals are whales, so they're endothermic (warm-blooded) mammals that nurse their young with milk and breathe air through a blowhole on their back. But unlike any other mammal, the males grow a single tusk up to ten feet long! Since adults average 13 to 16 feet in length, that's a long tusk. The tusk is actually a tooth that grows through their upper lip. The only other two teeth they have don't oppose each other so narwhals must swallow their food whole.



In medieval times, a few churches and well-to-do people owned "unicorn horns", which were thought to posses all sorts of magical healing powers. They were exceedingly rare until the 1600s when they suddenly became more common. These "unicorn horns" were, of course, narwhal tusks. The reason they became more common was better sailing vessels meant that Scandinavian fisherman were able to hunt the elusive narwhals more easily, and merchants from the rest of Europe were able to trade more easily once shipping lanes were established.

The purpose of a narwhal's tusk is not known. It has been hypothesized that they use them to dig around for food on the sea floor; defend themselves against orcas, which are known to prey on narwhals; spear fish; or to combat rivals for a mate. But since no one has ever actually witnessed a narwhal using its tusk, it remains a mystery.

Narwhals live in The Arctic and spend most of the winter under the thick pack ice. They are hunted by some arctic peoples for sustenance and are hunted commercially by a couple countries that still refuse to ban whaling. Since the only population study was conducted in the '70s, their exact numbers aren't known, so we can't be certain if their population is stable. Many scientists and environmentalists fear that narwhals may be in decline. That would be a shame 'cause narwhals are pretty fucking awesome.

Sources: I read everything I could find about narwhals, which wasn't very much, as little hard facts are known about them. Still, I must have read a dozen or more things, most of them just the length of an encyclopedia entry. I should have kept records of the publications so I could properly cite my sources but I didn't, so through my negligence I can't give props where props are due.

Just a thought: Why do so few animal names begin with N? Besides narwhal, I can think of only one offhand: newt. Go ahead, try thinking of another "N" animal.

O IS FOR OSTRACISM

The ancient Greeks, more specifically the Athenians, had a unique institution by which they could protect themselves from a potential tyrant who threatened their democracy from within. Once a year a vote could be held to banish such a person.

When the time for the vote came, the citizens of Athens (this didn't include slaves and women) gathered in the market holding shards of pottery, which were called *ostrakon*. Pottery was cheap and abundant in Athens and worthless pieces of broken vessels could easily be found lying about. A name was scratched onto the *ostrakon* and it was dropped in an urn. At the end of the day the urns were tipped over and all the votes were counted. If more than 6000 citizens cast votes then the person whose name appeared the most times would be banished, or ostracized.

The ostracized citizen wasn't sent away in disgrace. They had to leave for ten years but when they came back, all of their property would be saved for them and they could resume their life where they left off. It didn't happen very often, and the institution of ostracism only lasted about a hundred years but on at least one occasion it saved the city. The Persians were going to invade Athens in retaliation for their defeat at Marathon. Two men had opposing views as to how to interpret the Delphian Oracles pronouncement that the "wooden walls alone shall remain unconquered." Aristides the Just maintained that they should build a wooden wall around the Acropolis while Themistocles thought they should build a fleet of triremes, the new faster wooden ships. A vote was held and Aristides was ostracized. A good thing too since the ships helped save Athens and a wooden wall wouldn't have done much to repel the massive Persian army.

Here's a funny story about that ostracism vote: An illiterate man walked up to Aristides and, not knowing who he was, asked him to write a name on his *ostrakon* for him. Aristides asked, "Whose name shall I write?" The man replied, "write the name Aristides?" Aristides asked the man, "Why do you wish to vote for Aristides? What harm will he do to Athens?" The illiterate man replied, "None, I'm just tired of everyone calling him Aristides the Just."

Archeologists have unearthed many *ostrakon* with names scratched on them and from these we know what men were voted for. Some names appear often even though they were never ostracized, this lets us know that the citizens voted for them year after year but they never got enough votes.

Source: The Greeks: A Great Adventure by Isaac Asimov

P IS FOR PATRIOTISM

My fellow Americans, I'd like to get something off my chest. What's up with all this flag-waving patriotism? Why are some folks so pathologically loyal to the country in which they just happened to be born? Flag-waving is just one step away from gun-waving and gun-waving leads to war and war is bad. My name is Herbert Charlie Meyer and I approve this message.*

---

*And yes, these thoughts are my own. My papa isn't just using me as a cute poster boy to espouse his own beliefs.

Q IS FOR QUICK AND CERTAIN IS THE EMBRACE OF DEATH

The hunter fell asleep sitting against the bole of a large tree. When he awoke, he saw a mountain lion standing less than a yard away from him, poised to pounce. His rifle lay beside him with the safety engaged. If he reached for it, he wouldn't have time to use it.

They stared into each other's eyes. The mountain lion suddenly became perturbed. Its lips twitched with a snarl, revealing its canines. A low growl vibrated deep inside its chest.

The hunter could foresee no hope of escape. His mind raced with thoughts of his imminent death. *So this is how it ends. What will come next? What will become of me when I die? Soon I will know the answer to the greatest mystery humans face: death. This beast will gladly give me the answer to that great question. An answer that all living people yearn for but cannot know with certainty. And to think that I would have killed this generous creature had my rifle been in my hand...*

The mountain lion's fear and anger continued to increase as these thoughts raced through the man's mind. Its urge to pounce grew stronger and its growl grew louder. But just before it pounced, the hunter sprang on the cat – quick as lightning. Before the cat could grasp the situation, the man had wrapped his arms around it, embracing the cat's strong neck with a sincere, affectionate hug.

The mountain lion, its head over the man's left shoulder, saw the rifle by the base of the tree. It paused for the briefest of brief moments and contemplated the gun with what might have been uncertainty. But that fleeting, transitory moment passed in less than a heartbeat before the mountain lion acted with complete certitude.

meow

R IS FOR LIKE REAL

“Were your parents like real strict and stuff?”

“No, but they like made us eat like all super healthy.”

“Oh, like really nasty stuff?”

“No, not really. But like we weren’t allowed to bring a real Fruit-Roll-Up® in our lunch. We had to eat these fruit leathers that were made out of like real fruit.”

“I thought Fruit-Roll-Ups® were made of real fruit.”

“No, they’re all full of sugar and chemicals and stuff.”

ORGANIC APPLE
STRETCH ISLAND ®
FRUIT
LEATHER
100% ORGANIC
FRUIT SNACK

Conversation between two collegiate women, overheard in the Kenyon College Bookstore. I now know that I am like forever scarring young Herbie by feeding him fruit leathers. What’s a parent to do?

S IS FOR SORORITY

Best Friend

ΣΦΕ

LOVE BOAT 1990

T IS FOR TWINING DAY

A package is sitting on our front porch, collecting snow. I brush it off and bring it inside. Since it's near Christmas, Herbie takes an immediate interest in any potential present.

"What's that Papa?"

"It's a box that came in the mail today."

"Is it a present for me?"

"It says *Christoph Meyer* on it. Who's that?"

"That's you!"

"Do you want to help me open it?"

"Yes! Yes!"

Buried in the foam peanuts are nine 370 foot long skeins of white cotton butcher's twine with a 24 thread count. Ahhh, sweet twine. Inside is a card that reads: *Happy Twining Day. From Lori Moster.* I was having trouble finding the twine I wanted for this issue and my sis-in-law, Lori, was kind enough to order some for me.

Herbie immediately begins playing with the balls of twine, rolling them around the house, screaming and yelling. I'm pretty excited about the twine too, so I join him. Eventually, Herbie puts all the twine in a paper bag and asks me, "How much does this bag of twine weigh?" Is this a twine koan? Is Herbie testing me?

Rather than dropping the bag on his foot, I go for the rational, quantitative answer, "Let's weigh it and see."

Librett
DURABLES®
Biodegradable
EARTH
SAFE
PUNCH HERE PULL END FROM CENTER
Item No. CTB248
370 Ft. (No. 24)
COTTON BUTCHER'S TWINE
0 23316 10137 7
New Rochelle, NY 10801

Herbie carries the bag of twine over to the bathroom scale and asks, "How many pounds Papa?"

"Six pounds." Wow, six pounds of butcher's twine!

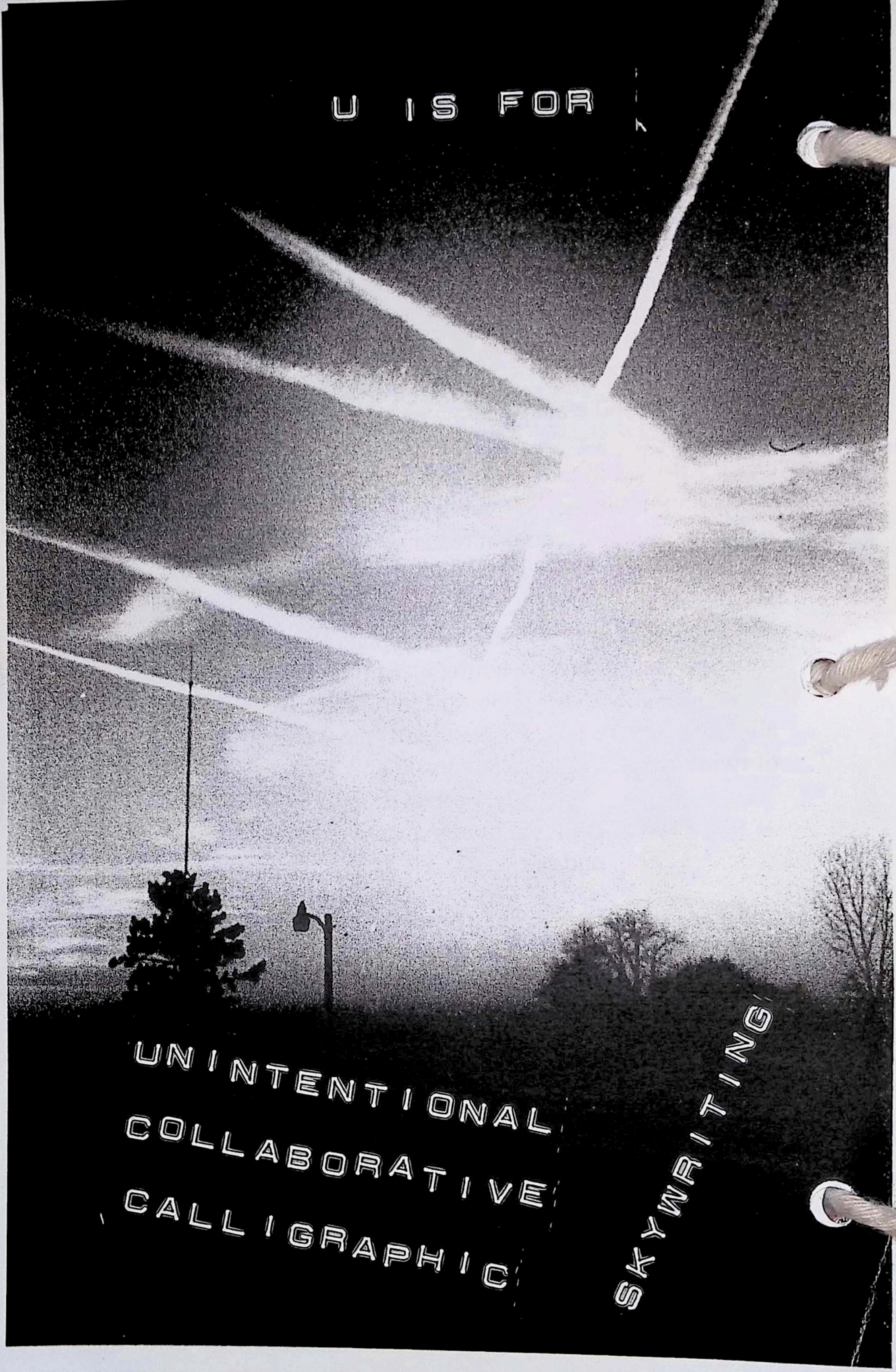
Then Herbie steps on the scale, "How many pounds I am?"

"Forty two."

"How many pounds are you, Papa?"

I step on the scale and say, "Two hundred and ten pounds."

"Whoa Papa. That's a lot of pounds." Yep, I need to lose some weight. Kids tell it like it is.



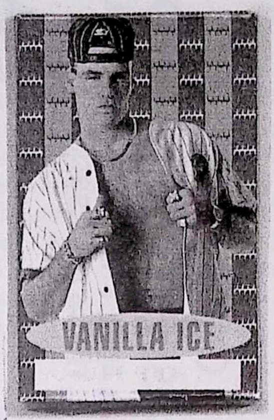
U IS FOR

UNINTENTIONAL COLLABORATIVE CALLIGRAPHIC SKYWRITING

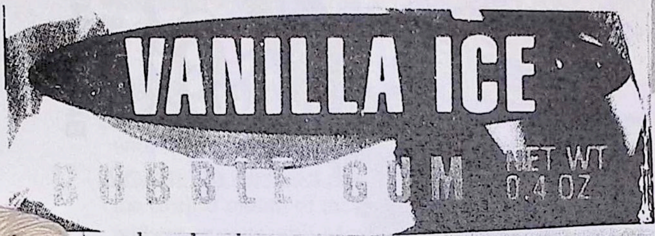
V IS FOR VANILLA ICE BUBBLE GUM

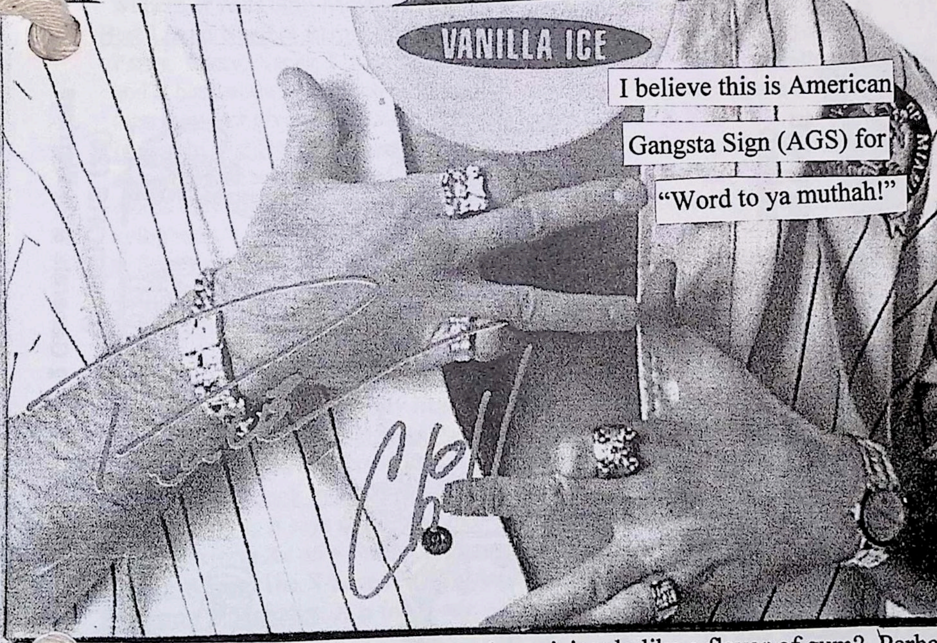
All right stop! Collaborate and listen! Inside a box of Lisa's old things we found two cassette-tape-case-shaped containers of Vanilla Ice Bubble Gum. While the gum was long ago chewed, and Robert Van Winkle's 15 minutes are long past, the photos on this pop culture artifact are timeless. Check out those gangsta hand signs and come hither stares! Check it one time boi!!!

VANILLA ICE
BUBBLE GUM
NET WT 0.4 OZ.



To the extreme I rock the mic like a vandal!
Light up the stage and wax a chump like a candle!





I believe this is American Gangsta Sign (AGS) for "Word to ya muthah!"

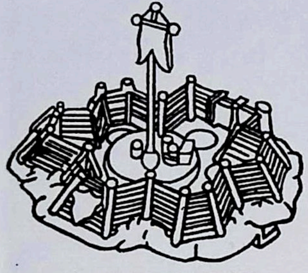
And doesn't "Vanilla Ice" sound suspiciously like a flavor of gum? Perhaps he was just a gum flavor before he had a rapping career. It appears that my wife's taste in gum hasn't changed much since she was a young girl. Just the other day, Lisa bought a pack of *Wrigley's Extra Polar Ice* and *Wrigley's Eclipse Lemon Ice*. Hmmm…"Lemon Ice"…"Polar Ice"…"Vanilla Ice"…there must be a larger pattern here that I don't quite comprehend…Ice Ice Baby, Too Cold, Too Cold…

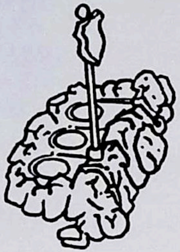
WEAPONS & WARRIORS™

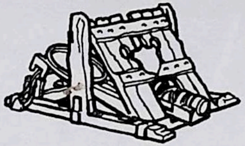
CASTLE SIEGE
ACCESSORY ORDER FORM

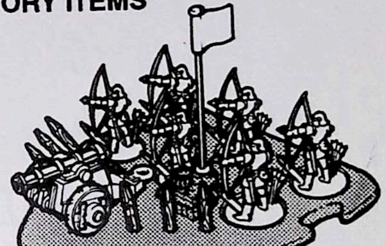
INDIVIDUAL LABEL SHEETS ARE NOT INCLUDED FOR THESE ACCESSORY ITEMS

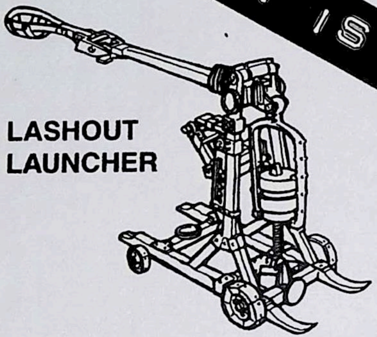
W IS FOR WEAPONS AND WARRIORS

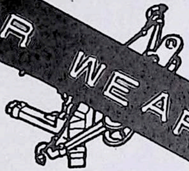

STARFORT


TRIPLE BLAST BARRIER


DEFENSE SHIELD


ARCHERS & BASE


LASHOUT LAUNCHER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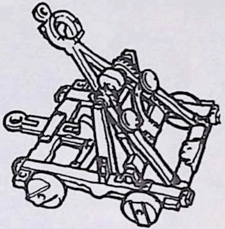
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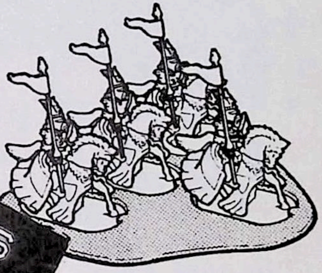
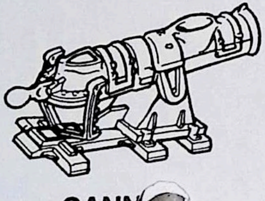

KNIGHTS & HORSES (8)
Plus 2 Bases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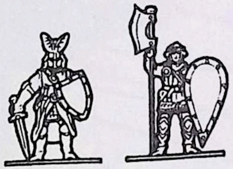
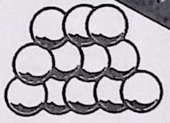

WARRIORS (26)
2 Generals & 24 Warriors


BATTLE BALLS (24)

X IS FOR EXAMPLES OF X

I read a lot of kid's books. You have no idea. There is a thriving sub-genre of kid's books that go through the alphabet and have a page per letter to help kids learn their ABCs. When one is obligated to cite examples of each letter, one invariably has trouble with a few letters. I know I had to make some tough decisions when choosing each letter for this issue. When making one page a Gocco Silkscreen, do I put in on page "G" or "S"? Because for "S" I wanted to use the Sorority picture, but I could put that on "L" for Love Boat, but then were would I put the Linoleum Print? And if I make the Gocco Silkscreen my "G" then what about the packaging for the Gummy thing? You can see the problems I was faced with. Well, when doing an alphabetical kid's book the author has less to work with when he or she comes to the letters that score high in Scrabble, such as Q,V and Z. But the letter that always gives them the most hassle is X. There's only so many times that one can use Xylophone. When I came to do my X page, I faced the same dilemma, so I thought it would be interesting to show what other writers have done when confronted with The X Conundrum. These books were mostly culled from Herbie's personal library and are listed in alphabetical order by title.

Alphabet Annie Announces An All-American Album: "Xavier Xeroxes x-rays in Xenia."

Antics: This book is an A to Z list of words and phrases that contain the word "ant" with ant illustrations. X is for "xANThophile".

Autumn: An Alphabet Acrostic: X is for Xylem and the acrostic poem for xylem is "**X**II, the twelfth month of the **Y**ear, when the **L**ast leaf has fallen and **E**very plant stem withers or rests until **M**ay."

Best Loved Nursery Rhymes and Songs: "X was once a great king Xerxes, Xerxy, Perxy, Turxy, Xerxy, Linxy, Lurxy, Great King Xerxes!" This is a really thick book and it has another alphabetical thingy about an apple pie, which goes all the way to T then they just give up and simply list the letters U V W X Y Z.

The Cat In The Hat Dictionary: "Oh no! X words are hard…xiphosuran, xanthochroid, xylophagous, xerophthalmia, xanthophylls" But then after they've joked about X words they list the standards, "Don't worry. Here are three easy ones…Xmas, x-ray, xylophone."

Dr. Seuss's ABC: "X is very useful if your name is Nixie Knox. It also comes in handy spelling ax and extra fox." The phrase "**extra fox**" is very intriguing, wouldn't you say?

My Animal Sticker Dictionary: There's a page or two for every letter eXcept X.

My First ABC: X shares a page with Y. The only X word on the X/Y page is Xylophone.

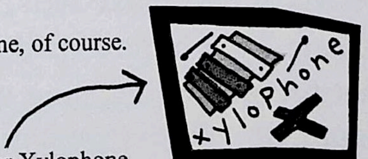
Richard Scary's Things To Know: "X is a letter. Chipmunk and Bunny play tic-tac-toe with an X and an O." I really like the sentence "X is a letter."

Scooter's Alphabet Coloring and Activity Book: "X marks the spot where you sign your name." The illustration is of Scooter the Skunk signing his name on a check.

Some alphabet book by Maurice Sendak that has Alligator in the title but that I can't find right now: It says something like "X is for Xing X's" and there's a picture of a critter drawing Xs on a chalkboard.

Talking Words: The X page is of a Xylophone, of course.

Tomorrow's Alphabet: X is for X-ray



Also:

A sheet of Herbie's alphabet stickers: X is for Xylophone

Herbie's letter blocks: Each 6-sided block in the set has a capital letter and lower case letter and 4 pictures of things that start with that letter. The only block that doesn't have 4 different pictures is the X block, which has 2 of X-ray and 2 of Xylophone.

Y ISE FORE YOPSE

I've decided to publish my writing under the name YOPSE. I haven't mentioned this in my zine before, but we've moved. About a year ago we moved from the little town of Millwood to the little town of Howard. Howard is just a couple miles from both Millwood and Danville, where Lisa has her dental practice. We moved because we had the opportunity to buy an old mill which was converted into a house. Ye Olde Mille (circa 1873)is a beautiful building and we love it. I'm doing some research on local history and I have some old pictures of the mill from back in the day, so I'll write about it in length. Not in 28PLBwT #13 but perhaps in #14.

Because the mill is huge (5 stories tall) and only half of it is converted into living space, the other half is empty and awaiting to be put to some use. I've been wanting to get my hands on an old movable type letter press for some time and maybe I'll be able to get one now that I have a place to put it. I was thinking of setting up a small printing shop someday. Since I live in Ye Olde Mille, I decided to name my publishing business Yee Olde Printe Shoppe, and make the emblem a letter "e" since I feel obliged to add so many extra e's for quaintness. The acronym will be YOPSE, again with an extra "E" tacked on the end just because.

So everything I make will now bear the YOPSE imprint. And one day I hope to print everything right here in our beautiful olde mille using wonderful antiquated printing equipment.

e
YOPSE

Z IS FOR ZINE MAKING

I’ve been asked numerous times to describe how I assemble *28PLBwT*. So here’s the process, broken down into a 12-step program.

Step 1: I write some stuff.

Step 2: Layout the stuff I wrote using the classic Cut-N-Paste method. Many a gluestick has died in the line of duty so that *28PLBwT* may live on.

Step 3: Drop it off at the printers.

Step 4: Pick it up from the printers. When picking up the copies I mustn’t forget to give the printer much more money than I make selling the zine.

Step 5: Cut the pages in half. Since my paper cutter only cuts through a few sheets at once, this takes a little time, and gives my right arm a good workout.

Step 6: Take the piles of cut pages that require hand-done touches and do those touches by hand. This involves taking a pile of paper one thousand sheets high and performing the same task (lino-printing, applying a sticker, rubber stamping, coloring something, highlighting something, gluing something) on each of the thousand sheets.

Step 7: Collating. Now don’t get me wrong, I love making my zine. The previous step (#6) might seem dull and repetitive, but I enjoy adding handmade touches. I don’t enjoy collating. It’s not something I dread or hate, it’s just the least fun of all the steps. I take my 14 piles of paper and go down the line, grabbing one of each sheet, until I have all the papers collated into unbound zines.

Step 8: Next comes hole-punching. I’ve got a manual 3-hole punch. I insert one zine at a time into the hole puncher and press down.

Step 9: It’s finally time for the twine. I always use twine — real, genuine, unadulterated, 100 % pure, authentic, honest-to-goodness twine. Never string or yarn. And certainly not staples! Cut twine into lengths of about 8 inches; anything less and it’s hard to tie, any more and you’re just wasting twine. Cut three for each zine; so if the press run is 1000, cut 3000. It can take a dozen or more skeins of twine to bind an issue.

Step 10: Now here’s the step that takes the longest, binding the zines. I thread a piece of twine through each of the three holes. Then, using a dowel or the handle of a wooden spoon, I tie the twine. Always with love. I can’t forget the love. The piece of wood keeps the circumference of the loops even, so that the pages of the finished zine open and turn easily.

Step 11: Trim the twine. Before this issue, I have always trimmed off the excess twine, leaving only the little twine loops. This time, however, I’m leaving the white cotton 24-thread-count butcher’s twine long and untrimmed like a guitarist who doesn’t cut off the ends of his guitar strings. Punk Rock!

Step 12: Read a copy of the finished product and immediately notice all the typos and errors that somehow eluded detection through numerous readings and edits, but are glaringly obvious now that the zine is assembled. Then I add one to the zine’s issue number and return to step 1.

The Alphabet Issue was conceived after I had the mind-numbing revelation that there are 26 letters in the English alphabet and 28 pages in my zine. So if I were to do a page per letter plus add a front and back cover, it would fit snugly into an issue of *28PLBwT*. The front cover was printed with the aid of a Stockwell Office Products Rubber Type Printing Kit and a circa 1980 Fisher-Price Printer's Kit that I've owned since I was a wee lad. The first 300 copies of this issue will contain an original artwork by Herbie or me between page 2 and 3 (page 2 ½). Herbie loves painting and drawing so we've been doing a lot of art together lately.

My marketing team has informed me that this zine has an antiquated look and is losing its market share to hipper zines. Therefore, this will be the last issue of *28PLBwT* that looks like this; I'll be reformatting to a sleeker new look for #13.

Write me. Real postal mail only 'cause computers can't lick stamps.
My address will now and forever be:

Christoph Meyer
Post Office Box 106
Danville, OH 43014

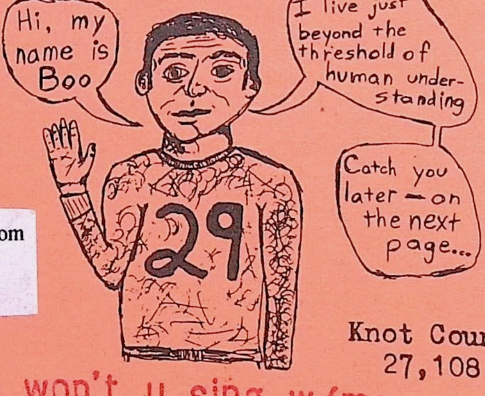
Subscription Prices:
1-issue: $2 or trade
3-issue sub: $5
6-issue sub: $10

#910 of 1008
CM

Prices are postage-paid in U.S.A. Please specify which issue you'd like your subscription to start with. Cash is preferable but checks to Christoph Meyer are okay. You can also pay with stamps. Please note that any correspondence I get might be used in a future issue. If you don't want your letter printed just tell me. Want to order some back issues? Issues #1, #2 and #3 are out of print but issues #4 through #11 are available. Everything in *28PLBwT* is by me, Christoph Meyer, unless otherwise noted. If you want to reprint anything, please ask first.

1st Printing

Acknowledgements:
The answering machine message (A) first appeared in *Zen Baby*
The "Urban Hieroglyphics" photo (H) first appeared in *Stray Dog*
"In the Naughty Boy Corner" (I) first appeared in *St. Cosmo, I Come to Adore You*
The Lino-print "Stargazer" (L) first appeared in *Black and Blue*
"UnintentionalCollaborativeCalligraphicSkywriting"(U) appeared in *Zen Baby*
The Narwhal (N) was done by Don Baker. Send him a couple bucks (7205 28th Ave. NW Seattle, WA 98117) for his zine, Merge.
The payphone (C) was done by Kyle Bravo. Check out his outfit, Hot Iron Press, at hotironpress.com.


Hi, my name is Boo
I live just beyond the threshold of human understanding
Catch you later — on the next page...
29

e
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Knot Count:
27,108

Next time won't u sing w/me